

## **RESOLUTION NO. 12-187**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama are apprised that a distinguished citizen, Dr. Joseph Henderson, will be recognized for his dedicated service and commitment to volunteerism in the Huntsville-Madison County Community during the Rosetta James Annual "2012 Honoring Our Elders" Celebration to be held at the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center on the beautiful campus of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University on March 10, 2012; and,

**WHEREAS**, Joseph Henderson was born in Hale County, Alabama. He graduated from U.S. Jones High School in Demopolis, Alabama and later earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in history and physical education plus a Master's Degree in counseling and guidance from Alabama State University in Montgomery. Continuing his education, Coach Joe Henderson earned his Educational Specialist Degree from Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia in Psychology Counseling. He earned a Doctor of Education Degree in Human Development Counseling from George Peabody College at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. He served his country in the U.S. Army as a military policeman for two years, becoming the first Afro-American to receive "MP of the Month" at Camp Casey, Korea; and,

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Henderson's work in sports began in Demopolis, Alabama, at U.S. Jones High School in 1959. He served as head track and field coach as well as assistant football and basketball coach, until 1967. In 1967, he became head basketball coach at South Girard High School in Phenix City, Alabama. When the school system integrated in 1970-71, Coach Henderson became Director of Basketball for the school system and head varsity basketball and track coach for Central High School in Phenix City, Alabama; and,

**WHEREAS**, he coached a few very successful athletes at both schools: Joe C. Merriweather, Wilbur Holland (professional basketball, NBA) Harvey Glance (Olympic Gold medalist in track), and Mike Gordon and Douglas Jones (ALL SIAC Track). A historical moment for Dr. Henderson while coaching at South Girard High School was coaching the first Alabama State All Star integrated basketball tournament and winning the championship; and,

**WHEREAS**, in 1975, Dr. Henderson entered college coaching at Alabama A&M University. His first assignments were instructor of physical education, athletic counselor, assistant basketball coach and head track coach. While coaching at AAMU, Dr. Henderson produced seven Olympians, over 100 All Americans, three NCAA Division II Women's Outdoor Championships and one Indoor NCAA Division II Women's Championship. His women's team won 16 consecutive SIAC Outdoor track and field championships and 12 consecutive SIAC cross country championships; and,

**RESOLUTION 12-187**

March 8, 2012

Page 2

**WHEREAS**, Coach Henderson started the present Huntsville Metro Track Club in the early 1990's. The club had other names, such as Normal Track Club, AAMU Track Club and now HMTC. Coach Henderson has served as VP for the Alabama United States of America Track and Field (USATF) for the past four years. He was unanimously voted President of the Alabama USATF, September 27, 2009, and again in September 2011. USATF is one of the largest organizations in the world with over 60,000 athletes. Coach Henderson has organized and coached a youth track club for more than 20 years within the Limestone, Madison County and Huntsville, Alabama area. He is committed to serve with honesty, integrity, and effectively with all officers and committees of the USATF Alabama organization to reach its goals and increase the membership and participation in the track and field events sponsored by the Alabama Association; and,

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Joseph Henderson is the owner and instructor at Jomil Driving School, teaching youth and adults to drive. He has served as volunteer instructor for AARP driver trainer courses for seniors. After 25 years of serving as Superintendent of Sunday school at First Missionary Baptist Church, he retired August 2010. Presently, Dr. Henderson serves in his church as deacon, adult Sunday school teacher, congregation care leader, and weekly hospital visitation ministry. He is married to Mildred B. Henderson, and they have two sons, Titus O. Henderson and Joseph D. Henderson. Titus is married to Marissa and they have two children, Jonathon and Sydney.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, gratefully acknowledge and congratulate Dr. Joseph Henderson for being selected as a recipient of the 2012 Rosetta James "Honoring Our Elders" Celebration and extend best wishes to him and the Board of Directors of the Rosetta James Foundation for continued success in all future endeavors.

**ADOPTED** on this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2012.

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President of the City Council of the  
City of Huntsville, Alabama

**APPROVED** on this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2012.

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Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama